

Application Serial No. 09/882,409
Reply to Office Action of September 24, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-5986

REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated September 24, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 217-246 are pending, Claims 217-227 and 230 are rejected and Claims 228, 229 and 231 are objected to. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 228, 229 and 231-246 are objected to as being in improper multiple dependent form. Claims 224-227 and 230 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The Applicant has amended the claims to overcome the objections and rejections. These amendments have not been made for any reason relating to the patentability of the claims. Although, Claim 230 has been cancelled.

In the Office Action, Claims 217-227 and 230 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by GB 1,329,589. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and transposes this rejection.

The rejection insists, materials contained in photocatalyst, such as oxides of zinc and titanium, are disclosed as radiation-sensitive material on page 1, lines 81-91 of GB 1,329,589. However, among the materials disclosed in GB 1,329,589 those do not act as photocatalyst. Further, although an exposure amount in much lower than the exposure amount that those skilled in the art recognize to be enough energy in order to excite a photocatalyst. Therefore, it is unlikely that photocatalytic action actually occurs in the oxides of zinc disclosed in GB 1,329,589.

More specifically, on page 5, lines 12-13 of GB 1,329,589, light exposure to this photosensitive medium is described to be 10-1000 ergs/cm². Even if the oxide of titanium has a photocatalytic function, the medium would not become hydrophilic with such low energy. In contrast, for example, in Example A-3 of the present specification, it is described that "the photocatalyst-containing layer was irradiated with ultraviolet light at an intensity of 70 mw/cm² for 2 min using a high pressure mercury lamp". When converted, this exposure amount 70 mw/cm² x 120 seconds will be 8400 mJ/cm². Thus, the exposure amount in GB 1,329,589 is eighty-four

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thousandth part of the exposure amount described in the present invention.

For the above-mentioned reasons, it cannot be recognized that an invention using a function due to a photocatalyst is disclosed in GB 1,329,589.

In the Office Action, Claims 217-227 and 230 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,195,156. The Applicant considers that this rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

The present application claims priority of the following 9 Japanese Patent Applications:

- 1) Application No. H09-214845 (filed on August 8, 1997)
- 2) Application No. H09-300295 (filed on October 31, 1997)
- 3) Application No. J09-313041 (filed on November 14, 1997)
- 4) Application No. H10-100369 (filed on March 27, 1998)
- 5) Application No. H10-85955 (filed on March 31, 1998)
- 6) Application No. H10-86293 (filed on March 31, 1998)
- 7) Application No. H10-165392 (filed on June 12, 1998)
- 8) Application No. H10-167316 (filed on June 15, 1998)
- 9) Application No. H10-183370 (filed on June 15, 1998)

Among these applications, applications 1) -3) were filed prior to the U.S. filing date of Miyamoto (March 13, 1998), and claims 217-227 of the present application are described in these applications 1) -3).

Therefore, the rejection to claims 217-227 is not appropriate. The Applicant is presently obtaining certified translations of the priority documents to support this assertion.

In the Office Action, Claim 230 is rejected in view of JP 9-131914. Claim 230 has been cancelled.

After the Examiner has considered this response, the Applicant requests an

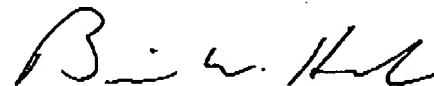
Application Serial No. 09/882,409
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Docket: CU-5986

interview between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney, if the Examiner considers that the application is not in condition for allowance. Submitted with this response is an interview request form, requesting an interview for Friday, May 23, 2008. If this date is not convenient for the Examiner, please contact the undersigned attorney to reschedule the date.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



March 24, 2008

Date

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